

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6335
INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMCONSUL KARACHI
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMCONSUL LAHORE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 2696

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PK, AF, IN, PEPR
SUBJECT: BHUTTO STATEMENT ON INTERNATIONAL CONSPIRACY AND
RELATIONS WITH AFGHANISTAN

1. EMBASSY HAS OBTAINED A COPY OF FORMER PM BHUTTO'S STATEMENT,
WHICH CONTESTS HIS DETENTION UNDER MARTIAL LAW, BEFORE THE LAHORE
HIGH COURT. THE 100-PAGE DOCUMENT REFLECTS BHUTTO'S TOWERING EGO
AND HIS INTENSE PERSONAL DISLIKE FOR GENERAL ZIA ANS SEVERAL OF
PAKISTAN'S POLITICIANS, INCLUDING WALI KHAN.

2. THE STATEMENT REITERATES CHARGES OF AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT IN
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THE "INTERNATIONAL CONSPIRACY" AGAINST PAKISTAN AND ADDS THE NEW
CLAIM THAT INDIA IS ALSO PART OF THIS ANTI-PAKISTAN CABAL. THE
ONLY SUPPORT BHUTTO OFFERS FOR THE LATTER CHARGE IS HIS CLAIM
THAT THE RECENT VAJPAYEE VISIT TO ISLAMABAD WAS SOMEHOW A VEHICLE
FOR INDIAN PARTICIPATION IN THE CONSPIRACY.

3. STATEMENT ENDS WITH A BRIEF REFERENCE TO A "DRAFT AGREEMENT"

BETWEEN PAKISTAN AND AFGHANISTAN WHICH WAS ALLEGEDLY "IRONED OUT" IN LAHORE IN AUGUST, 1976 DURING WAHID ABDULLAH AND AZIZ AHMED MEETING. ACCORDING TO BHUTTO, THE DRAFT CALLED FOR THE SIMULTANEOUS RELEASE BY GOP OF THE NAP LEADERS FROM JAIL AND THE "RECOGNITION OF THE EXISTING INTERNATIONAL BORDER (THE DURAND LINE) BY AFGHANISTAN." OBVIOUS IMPLICATION IS THAT THE MARTIAL LAW GOVERNMENT WAS DUPED BY KABUL INTO RELEASING WALI KHAN AND HIS COLLEAGUES WITHOUT ENSURING AFGHANISTAN WOULD, AT THE SAME TIME, FULFILL ITS PART OF THE BARGAIN.

4. ALTHOUGH MFA SOURCES HAVE ALLUDED TO AN UNDERSTANDING/ AGREEMENT, THIS IS THE FIRST WE HAVE HEARD OF A FORMAL DOCUMENT WHICH PURPORTEDLY CONTAINS THE TERMS OF A SETTLEMENT. ALTHOUGH BHUTTO WOULD NOT SHRINK FROM BALD-FACED LIE, WHEN IT FITS HIS PURPOSES, WE WONDER IN THIS CASE IF HE WOULD MAKE SUCH AN EXPLICIT CLAIM UNLESS THERE IS AT LEAST SOME SUBSTANCE TO IT. WE WILL SEE IF WE CAN DEVELOP ANY FURTHER INFORMATION ON THIS SUBJECT.

4. SECTION OF STATEMENT ON PAK/AFGHAN "AGREEMENT" BEING POUCHED NEA/PAB AND KABUL.

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